

FRAUDS IN CUBA

GROWING IN EXTENT AS THE INVESTIGATION PROCEEDS.

Postmaster Edward P. Thompson, Formerly of Indianapolis, Temporarily Suspended from Office.

NATURE OF CHARGE UNKNOWN

STAMP SELLERS AT THE HAVANA OFFICE UNDER ARREST.

Six Other Employees Under Suspicion, and Further Arrests Throughout the Island Probable.

BRISTOW GOING TO HAVANA

WILL PROBABLY RELIEVE DIRECTOR OF POSTS RATHBONE.

Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Instructed to Proceed to the Cuban Capital at Once.

ACTION TAKEN BY PRESIDENT

WHO IS DETERMINED TO LET NO GUILTY MAN ESCAPE.

Neely Leaves Muncie for New York Where He Will Fight Extradition-Spiker's Statement.

HAVANA, May 14.—The extent of the postal frauds is far greater than what was originally expected. Besides taking in the postal department the frauds seem to include the local office at Havana and various other offices throughout the island, and also to have extended to outside points, which have been used for the sale of some of the old issue of stamps that were ordered destroyed.

The result of the investigation at the local postoffice is the suspension of Postmaster Thompson, who was installed in April of last year. He will remain at his own house for the present. Mr. Sheridan will temporarily fill Mr. Thompson's place.

Moya and Mascaro, stamp sellers in the main office, have also been arrested, and further arrests are expected to-morrow. As many as six others have been placed under the closest supervision, and they will be arrested as soon as their services can be spared. As a matter of fact, if they were all to be suddenly relieved of duty it would not be possible to carry on the postal department of Havana.

Messrs. Reeves and Reynolds, the auditors of the postal department, are still under arrest at their own rooms in charge of detectives. Special quarters will, however, be prepared in some fortress, where all the prisoners connected with the frauds will be taken as soon as arrested.

To-day's arrests and the suspension of Mr. Thompson did not take place until after dark, and consequently these new features of the case are not generally known throughout this city this evening, but there is a perceptible excitement at the postoffice, where no one knows who may be the next to be singled out.

E. G. Rathbone desires the Associated Press to say that there is no truth in the report circulated in the United States that there is friction between the military authorities here and the postal department. On the contrary, the most complete harmony prevails between General Wood and himself, consultations taking place between them daily. He also says he does not consider it proper under present circumstances to give out interviews for publication and has so answered all applications for personal statements that have been called from the United States.

It appears that the frauds ramified in almost every possible direction, even the rented boxes having been made a source of illegitimate gain. Every additional revelation increases the amazement of the Americans here. The Cubans seem to be immensely pleased. They declare that the Americans can no longer boast in Cuba of their superior honesty when in government employ.

General Wood devotes several hours daily to postal affairs, hearing the reports of special agents and conferring with Mr. Rathbone and others having any knowledge of the matter. As yet it is impossible to say how many persons will be implicated.

The Suspended Postmaster.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—Edward P. Thompson, the suspended postmaster of Havana, is one of the best known men in Indianapolis, where he stood high in general estimation. He served for twenty-five years in the Indianapolis office and was postmaster under the Harrison administration. He was assistant postmaster for some years prior to the Cleveland administration, which retained him in the postoffice in a subordinate capacity. He served in the civil war in General Harrison's command. He was appointed postmaster at Havana six months ago. The news of his suspension had not reached the White House up to a late hour to-night, but the press advices were not questioned there, as General Wood has been given a free

hand in the administration not only of Cuban affairs generally but of postal affairs.

TO RELIEVE RATHBONE.

Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow Going to Cuba.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—The latest development in Cuban postal affairs is the determination of the administration to send Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Joseph L. Bristow to Havana to relieve Director of Posts Rathbone and exercise supreme control of post-office matters throughout the island. Mr. Rathbone is not removed, but relieved from the control of postal affairs. It is supposed that he will return to the United States after Mr. Bristow assumes charge, though he may remain in Havana for a time until Bristow has had time to get the hang of things. Bristow will still be fourth assistant postmaster-general of the United States, but he will be granted leave of absence as such and be assigned to his new duties during the time he is away from this country. What his official title in Cuba will be is not quite clear, but the supposition is that he will be designated while acting as the head of the postal service of the island as acting director of posts.

The decision to send Bristow to Havana to relieve Rathbone was arrived at late this afternoon after a conference between the President, the secretary of war and the postmaster general. It is understood that this action is to be taken as indicating in any way that Rathbone is implicated in any wrongdoing his subordinates may have been guilty of, but simply as indicative of the inflexible purpose of the administration that the situation in Cuba shall be probed to the bottom, wrongs righted, and any guilty persons brought to justice, provided it finally turns out that anybody has been guilty of criminal acts.

The requisition papers forwarded by General Wood for Neely have been received, found to be in correct form by the law officers of the government and sent on to Governor Roosevelt. It is understood here that Neely will have a hearing before Commissioner Shields, in New York, on Wednesday. If a case is made out against him he will probably be sent to Cuba for trial, though the law officers of the government say he could be tried in the United States courts of New York if the government should elect. The feeling in official circles is that it will be better to return him to Cuba for trial, if a case is made against him at his preliminary hearing, because of the good effect such a course would have upon the Cubans, who would hardly believe he had ever been punished unless he were tried in Cuban courts.

An Associated Press dispatch says: "The postmaster general to-day declined to say whether or not Director General of Posts Rathbone would be suspended. Mr. Bristow outranks the director of posts and the latter might operate as a subordinate, though on this point no statement is vouchsafed. Further than the announcement that Mr. Bristow would go to Havana, the postmaster general said that there was no new development in the situation. He said there had not been an intimation that there had been any wrong doing in the postal affairs of either the Philippine Islands or Porto Rico. In Porto Rico the director of posts, Captain Elliott, was a retired naval officer. He had had no experience in postal affairs and it was feared that he might make some mistakes, but the entire system was conducted in an exemplary manner. In Cuba the management has been in the hands of an expert postoffice employee and it was supposed there could be nothing wrong there. The situation in Porto Rico and Cuba, up to the beginning of this month was practically the same, but in the case of the former both the military and the postal authorities had been honest."

Mr. Bristow was appointed fourth assistant at the beginning of the present administration. He is a native of Kentucky, but for many years he resided in Kansas, from which State he was appointed. He has been engaged in newspaper work and for a time was private secretary to Governor Morrill, of Kansas. Chief Clerk Merritt O. Chance will be acting fourth assistant postmaster, during the absence of General Bristow.

Respecting rumors that similar irregularities had been developed in Cuba have occurred in the other insular possessions over which military jurisdiction has been extended, it is declared positively at the War Department, while the inspectors have been working constantly to improve the administrative service, they have not found a single case involving moral turpitude.

Mr. Bristow said to-day that Auditor Bristow has been suspended at Havana was selected by the assistant auditor of the treasury for the Postoffice Department for deputy auditor, although the appointment was made by the War Department, Assistant Auditor Lawshe, who has been sent to Cuba to investigate, will fill the position formerly held by Mr. Reeves. Mr. Lawshe, who installed the auditor's office in Cuba, is of the belief that if there has been a defalcation, the lines he laid down for the management of the office were not followed, for it would not be possible, he thinks, for such a thing to occur, if the rules had been observed.

WILL RESIST EXTRADITION.

Neely's Counsel Does Not Want to Be Tried Under Spanish Law.

NEW YORK, May 14.—In speaking of the requisition for the extradition of Charles F. W. Neely, chief of the finance bureau of the Postoffice Department of United States, who is now on bail, District Attorney Burnett said to-day: "I have received the extradition papers from Washington and have communicated with Governor Roosevelt in regard to the hearing. It is always allowed the defendant in extradition cases. The matter will be hurried and I presume the hearing will be held not later than Wednesday. At the hearing Neely's attorneys will be given an opportunity to present reasons for objecting to the prisoner's removal."

MAY SOON END

ST. LOUIS LABOR TROUBLES IN FAIR WAY TO BE ADJUSTED.

Suburban Railway Company Has Made Concessions and Its Men Will Return to Work To-day.

TRANSIT OFFICIALS CONFER

DISCUSS TERMS WITH CITIZENS AND STRIKERS' REPRESENTATIVE.

Proceedings Are Unexpectedly Interrupted, However, and the Conference Breaks Up.

GOVERNOR STEPHENS FIRM

INTENDS TO SEE THAT THE POLICE MAINTAIN ORDER.

No Further Trouble at Kansas City, Where About Two Hundred Strikers Paraded Yesterday.

ST. LOUIS, May 14.—There were important developments in the street-railway strike situation to-day. At a conference held between the officials of the Suburban Railway Company, the only system in St. Louis not controlled by the St. Louis Transit Company, and on which a strike was inaugurated ten days prior to that declared on the Transit system, and the employees of that road an amicable adjustment was effected, and the men will return to work to-morrow morning. On just what basis the strike was settled could not be learned, but it can be positively stated that the union received full recognition.

In many quarters it is thought the settlement of the strike on the Suburban presages an adjustment of the difficulties between the Transit company and its 3,000 striking employees in the near future. In fact, it was tonight tonight that at a conference held this afternoon of officials of the Transit company, the chairman of the employees' grievance committee and some of the members of the citizens' committee matters were adjusting themselves nicely for a settlement of the difficulties, when a member of the citizens' committee injected into the proceedings a proposition of such a character that the discussion was brought to a close with matters no nearer a settlement than had heretofore existed. It is thought, however, that a future meeting of the same persons will result in establishing a basis for the settlement of the strike.

The Suburban company had no difficulty in maintaining a thorough running schedule to-day, and no serious demonstrations on that line occurred. On the Transit company's system there were a number of demonstrations—more noisy than otherwise. In one instance the railways' police were obliged to charge on a crowd of strike sympathizers to disperse it, and in a number of instances used the flat side of their sabres in accomplishing their purpose. No casualties of a serious nature were reported during the day.

President Mahon, of the International Association of Amalgamated Street-railway Employees, who is here, making the strike, in an interview, said: "The Governor's action in calling 2,500 extra police has complicated the strike situation. It was an unwise and uncalled-for action, and besides his attitude of only two days ago, when he said that the situation did not justify such measures as he intimates may be expected. While his precipitate course is in itself a surprise, his new way of dealing with the situation was not unexpected. It has not strengthened the railways' position. Does the Governor take the responsibility of ordering the forces at his command to shoot and club into submission American justice and freedom? I am afraid the Governor has made the task of the citizens' committee all the more difficult. Everything was proceeding nicely when the new order came like a clap of thunder. I am very much afraid it has spoiled the chance of adjustment."

In reply to the statement of Mr. Mahon about the calling for 2,500 policemen, Governor Stephens said to-day: "I called for the men because I thought they were needed and without consulting Mr. Mahon about it. I talked with the Police Board, the chief, the captains and the other heads of the police department, and they thought the situation required this action, so I took it. I think these men, who live in St. Louis, know the conditions here better than Mr. Mahon, who does not live here. Therefore I did not consult Mr. Mahon, nor do I intend to do so."

Nearly fifty shots were fired in an encounter between guards and wire cutters near Brentwood, on the Meramec division of the Suburban road to-day. The fight took place a quarter of a mile from the power house at Brentwood. Four men guarding the property of the Suburban saw two men on foot and one on horseback moving along the car tracks. One began climbing a wooden trolley pole, carrying a pair of shears. The guards opened fire at the climber, who slid to the ground. The three men returned the shots and fled, with bullets following them.

By the agreement entered into to-day between General Manager Jones of the Suburban road, and George W. Woodward, chairman of the grievance committee which settled the strike, all differences were submitted to arbitration. All men not discharged prior to April 29 are to return to work to-morrow morning. In event that the finding of the board of arbitration is against the company, it is agreed that the arbitrators shall consider the discharge of all men since March 2, and its findings shall be binding upon the company.

PARADE AT KANSAS CITY.

Strikers March by Permission of the Mayor—Cars Running.

KANSAS CITY, May 14.—The street-railway strike here was devoid of exciting incidents to-day. The strikers to the number of about two hundred paraded the streets with a brass band this afternoon, appearing on the streets after the chief of police had refused to issue a permit for the parade and an appeal to Mayor Reed had

been resorted to, the mayor issuing the permit.

On all lines trains started with the usual regularity, and no signs of violence were apparent during the early hours. The strikers had said that to-day they would pull the crews from their trains if they refused to strike, and when asked about their apparent indifference replied with: "Wait until after the meeting."

Following out their intention of last week, the builders' trade lockout became effective to-day. Members of the club say that about 90 carpenters, painters, tanners and plasterers were locked out, while the union men declared that between 300 and 400 are affected. The lock-out is a test of strength between the boss builders and the unions. The lockout was ordered by the Building Trades Council and force each union to treat with contractors independent of all other unions.

Workmen Injured in a Riot.

CHICAGO, May 14.—Several workmen were injured in a fight, which took place to-day in front of a building in course of construction at 20 Seelye avenue. A riot call was turned in and on the arrival of the police the crowd scattered, leaving M. L. Brown, nonunion iron worker, on the ground, suffering from a wound in the head. He was removed to St. Michael's hospital, but the police were unable to make any arrests. Half a dozen others received wounds from flying bricks and scraps of iron, but left the scene unassisted. The trouble arose over the employment of some nonunion men in the structure.

Strike at Dayton.

DAYTON, O., May 14.—One hundred and thirty-five motormen employed on the two roads of the People's Street-railway Company are on a strike to-night, and this may mark the beginning of a general tie-up for all the operating companies. The men formulated their demands to include an increase of wages, a reduction in hours and arbitration on the question of discharges, also formal recognition of the union.

Will Not Treat with Freight Handlers.

BUFFALO, N. Y., May 14.—The general superintendents of both the Erie and the New York Central roads in New York have absolutely refused to treat with the striking freight handlers here on the subject of an increase of wages.

DEMO-POPULIST PLAN

SCHEME TO ATTACH TWO TAILS TO THE BRYAN KITE THIS FALL.

Effort Will Be Made to Catch All Kinds of Voters—Missouri Republican Delegates.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—The latest gossip about the Bryan-Towne ticket nominated by the Populists at Sioux Falls last week is that Towne will not retire from the ticket, but that the Democratic convention at Kansas City will proceed to nominate Bryan and its own candidate for Vice President, and that electoral tickets will be put in the field in the States where the Democrats are the most numerous. The Missouri Populists are the most numerous hearing the names of Bryan and Towne. The Demo-Populists who advocate this plank think it will secure the election of Bryan, if anything will accomplish that, though it might result at the same time in electing a Republican nominee for Vice President.

MISSOURI REPUBLICANS

Meet in State Convention To-day—Candidates for Party Honors.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 14.—Edward A. Rozier, of St. Louis, United States district attorney, was to-night selected to preside over the Republican state convention to-morrow at the Missouri Hotel. Mr. Rozier is a former chairman of the Kansas City committee for the Bryan-Towne ticket. The convention will nominate a full state ticket and select four delegates at large. There is practically no contest over the state offices, with Joseph Flory, of St. Louis, the only candidate for Governor. There are candidates for delegates at large as follows: D. M. Houser, editor of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, who seems practically sure of nomination; Nathan Pratt and D. P. Dyer, also of St. Louis; John L. Bittinger, of St. Joseph; C. G. Burton, of Nevada; James L. Minnis, of Carrollton, and Major William Warner, of Kansas City.

At the Fifth district Republican congressional convention Walter S. Dickey, of Kansas City, and Dan Hoefler, of Lafayette, were elected delegates to the Philadelphia convention and instructed for McKinley.

A. W. Love, of Kansas City, was named as elector.

Charged with Conspiracy to Kill.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., May 14.—Warrants were sworn out to-day for the arrest of Warren S. Reese, United States district attorney for the Middle district of Alabama, Nathan H. Bingham, internal revenue collector for Alabama, and Frank Morague, on a charge of conspiracy to kill certain doorkeepers at the State Capitol on the day of the meeting of the Republican State convention, April 19. Affidavits were made by Charles H. Scott, brother of Gaston Scott, who was shot by Morague. No arrests have been made.

Philadelphia Slow but Sure.

PHILADELPHIA, May 14.—At a meeting this afternoon of the finance committee of the citizens' national Republican convention the announcement was made that the \$100,000 pledged by this city to the national committee had been raised.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

Tennessee Killed His Wife and Himself—Three Victims in All.

DYERSBURG, Tenn., May 14.—L. D. McAllister, a wealthy citizen of Heloise, to-night shot and instantly killed his wife and after an ineffectual attempt to slay his wife's brother, turned the smoking revolver to his own head and blew out his brains. The trouble began about two years ago when McAllister charged his wife with having improper relations with one Love. Later he killed Love and after a trial was acquitted. Lately McAllister had made further charges against his wife and they separated. To-night he called on her and insisted that she confess her alleged wrongdoings. The woman denied his charges, whereupon McAllister killed her. Her brother saved himself by a hasty retreat. McAllister then shot himself, dying instantly.

LAW IS VALID

IMPORTANT CLAUSE OF THE WAR REVENUE ACT UPHOLD.

Six Decisions Covering Inheritance Taxes Rendered by the United States Supreme Court.

WHOLE ESTATE NOT TAXABLE

LEGACIES ALONE ARE SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF THE LAW.

Government Bonds Not Exempt Under Either the Enactment of the New York Legislature or Congress.

REVIEW OF THE DECISION

ITS POINTS MADE CLEAR BY THE SOLICITOR GENERAL.

Right to Fix Progressive Rates Upheld—Several Millions Involved—No Ruling in Kentucky Case.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—The Supreme Court of the United States to-day announced opinions in the cases arising under the inheritance tax provision of the war revenue act and also in a case involving the applicability of the state inheritance tax law of New York to estates composed of government bonds. There were five decisions under the federal law and one under the state law, but two of the former cases, as applied to the latter class, were decided by the sum of each of such legacies or distributive shares. The decisions dealing with the federal law as a whole were handed down by Justice White and those relating to government bonds by Justice Shiras.

The principal decision in the list, handed down by Justice White, covered the case of Eben J. Knowlton and Thomas A. Buffum, executors of Edwin F. Knowlton, brought here from the Eastern district of New York. The opinion of the Circuit Court was adverse to the validity of the law, and accordingly it was reversed. The opinion is very voluminous and discusses exhaustively every phase of the law. Referring to the "progressive" feature of the act Justice White said that it was conclusive that it creates no new subject of taxation. "It simply provides," he said, "for the progressive rates on the property mentioned in the opening sentence, which is described exactly as it was in the act of 1864. Now as the act of 1864 taxed, not the whole estate, but each particular legacy or distributive share, the conclusion cannot be escaped that the present law does the same thing, except that there is added thereto a progressive rate."

A PROGRESSIVE TAX.

Then he took up the question as to whether the law commands that the progressive rate shall be measured by the amount of a legacy or the whole personal estate, the conclusion being that it was not the intention to tax the entire estate, but "the separate and distinct sums or items of personal property passing." The conclusion then was announced that the tax is on the legacies and distributive shares, the rate being primarily determined by the classifications and being progressively increased according to the amount of the legacy or share.

Continuing on this line the justice said: "As the whole amount of such personal property as aforesaid relates to the sum of each legacy or distributive share considered separately it follows that all legacies below \$10,000 are not taxed and that those above that amount are taxed primarily by the degree of relationship or absence thereof specified in the five classifications contained in the act, and that the rate of tax is progressively increased by the amount of each separate legacy or distributive share. This being the correct interpretation of the statute it follows that the court below erroneously maintained a contrary construction, and therefore the assessment and collection was for a larger amount than the sum actually due by law."

The decision held that the tax was not a direct tax under the Constitution, but a duty or an excise tax. On the point of "uniformity" as required by the Constitution Justice White said the constitutional requirement was geographical. "Considering the text," he continued, "it is apparent that if the word 'uniform' means 'equal and uniform' in the sense now asserted by the opponents of the tax the words 'throughout the United States' are deprived of all real significance, and, sustaining the contention, must hence lead to a disregard of the elementary canon of construction which requires that effect be given to each word of the Constitution. One of the most satisfactory answers to the argument that the uniformity required by the Constitution is the same as the equal and uniform clauses which have since been embodied in so many of the state constitutions results from a review of the practice under the Constitution from the beginning. From the very first Congress down to the present date in levying duties, imposts and excises the rule of inherent uniformity, or, in other words, intrinsically equal and uniform taxes, has been disregarded and the principle of geographical uniformity consistently enforced."

UNIFORMITY.

On another point of uniformity he said: "It is yet further asserted that the tax does not fulfill the requirements of geographical uniformity for the following reason: As the primary rate of taxation depends upon the degree of relationship or want of relationship to a deceased person, it is argued that it cannot operate with geographical uniformity, inasmuch as testamentary and intestate laws may differ in every State. It is certain that the same degree of relationship or want of relationship to the deceased, wherever existing, is

levied on at the same rate throughout the United States. The tax is hence uniform throughout the United States, despite the fact that different conditions among the States may obtain as to the objects upon which the tax is levied."

With reference to the objections to the progressive feature of the law Justice White said: "The review which we have made exhibits the fact that taxes imposed with reference to the ability of the person upon whom the burden is placed to bear the same have been levied from the foundation of the government, and also some authoritative thinkers and a number of economic writers contend that a progressive tax is more just and equal than a proportionate one. In the absence of constitutional limitation, the question whether it is or is not legislative and not judicial. The grave consequences which it is asserted must arise in the future if the right to levy a progressive tax be recognized involves in its ultimate aspect the mere assertion that free and representative government is a failure and that the greatest abuses of power are foreshadowed unless the courts usurp a purely legislative function. If a case should ever arise where an arbitrary and confiscatory exaction is imposed bearing the guise of a progressive or any other form of tax, it will be time enough to consider whether the judicial power can afford a remedy by applying inherent and fundamental principles for the protection of the individual, even though there be no express authority in the Constitution to do so. That the law which we have construed affords no ground for the contention that the tax imposed is arbitrary and confiscatory is obvious."

COURT BELOW ERRED.

Concluding he said: "It follows from the foregoing opinion that the court below erred in denying relief and that it should have held the plaintiff entitled to recover so much of the tax as resulted from taxing legacies below \$10,000 and from increasing the tax rate with reference to the whole amount of the personal estate of the deceased from which the legacies or distributive shares were derived."

Justice Brewer dissented on the ground that the progressive feature of tax is a violation of "uniformity," but concurred on all other points.

Other cases decided by Justice White are as follows: High vs. Coyne, appeal from decision of the United States Circuit Court for the Northern district of Illinois, and the Fidelity Insurance Trust and Safe Deposit Company vs. McClain, in error to the United States Circuit Court for the Eastern district of Pennsylvania.

In the case involving the right to tax inheritances consisting of government bonds, which were handled in an opinion handed down by Justice Shiras, the court said: "We think the conclusion fairly to be drawn from the State and federal cases at the foot of the Biggarsburg ridges, and the Federal Hill road, and it is reported that the Boers withdrew in disorder. A special dispatch from Stone Hill Farm, Natal, dated yesterday, says: 'General Buller's advance commenced last Thursday, when he left Ladysmith in strength. When within two miles of Helpmakaar the Boers opened a heavy fire and the British guns replied, while a portion of Buller's troops worked round the Boer flanks. The British attack was pressed home Sunday. Bethuen on the right, outflanked the Boers, whose splendid defensive positions in the Biggarsburg were practically taken. General Buller's march subsequent to the attack was carried out without a hitch. The British are still pushing on.'"

A dispatch received by the Associated Press from Pietermaritzburg, Natal, timed 12:30 p. m. yesterday, says: "General Buller's official telegram notifying his success at the Biggarsburg received here an hour ago. It has given great satisfaction. It is confidently anticipated that Dundee will be occupied by the British to-day. The residents of the North country are delighted, as forcing the Biggarsburg means that they will speedily be enabled to return to their homes."

Another dispatch to the Associated Press dated Stone Hill Farm, 8:20 this morning, says: "After four days' march eastward at the foot of the Biggarsburg ridges, in the direction of Helpmakaar, which was occupied by the federal, the Second Brigade, Sunday, led the attack. Dundonald's cavalry broke the Boers' center and Methuen's horse advanced on their extreme right. In the direction of Pomorie, a small party of burghers occupied a ridge overlooking Helpmakaar, but they did not wait for the assault."

General Buller, who seems to be employing his full strength, is expected to push on. His first marches were forty miles in three days. He is thus breaking into British territory which has been administered for six months by the Transvaalers, as though it were part of the republic, they holding courts and levying taxes. His success therefore has political as well as military consequences. While Lord Roberts' infantry are concentrating at Kroonstad, where they will rest for a day or two, his horsemen have penetrated eighteen miles northward. In the squadron which cut the railway fifteen miles beyond Kroonstad was the American scout, Frederick Burnham. Two hundred Boers who had hidden in the river jungles near Kroonstad to escape service have surrendered to the British and taken the oath of allegiance."

According to a dispatch from Bennett Burleigh to the Daily Telegraph, dated Thursday, May 10, Paul Botha and Macdonald, members of the Free State Volksraad, demanded that the chairman should call a meeting to sue for peace, as further resistance was suicidal and proposed to make President Steyn a prisoner. Nothing definite has been heard about the expected relief of Mafeking. The Cape Town correspondents continue to wire that relief is imminent, fixing Tuesday or Wednesday as probable dates. Inquirers at the War Office are told that the news of the relief will be made public immediately on its receipt. No word had come to hand at midnight.

The latest supposition concerning General Hunter is that possibly he is marching up the north bank of the Vaal with a force sufficient, in co-operation with Lord Roberts, to render Boer defense of the Vaal frontier impracticable.

East of Bloemfontein General Buller is advancing toward Ladysmith. His troops and those of General Buller are stretched over a distance of thirty miles. The Boers are described as quite disorganized and as retreating northward. President Steyn's lieutenants are trying to rally them.

The same stories of disintegration come from nearly every point where the English correspondents are. Mr. Hollwell, formerly a correspondent at Mafeking, who was put over the Transvaal border, telegraphing from Lourenco Marques, Sunday, says: "Judging from talks I have had with the Boers the end of the war will come in a month or six weeks. Mr. Steinkamp, chairman of the second road, who traveled with me, said that if the burghers were pressed from Pretoria they would retire to the district of the Lydenburg

BULLER MOVES

MARCHES OUT OF LADYSMITH WITH A STRONG FORCE.

And Compels the Boers to Evacuate Their Position at Helpmakaar After a Fight.

WORKS AROUND THEIR FLANKS

AND FORCES THEM TO FALL BACK ON BLESKOPLAAGTE.

Now Near Dundee, While the Enemy Is Said to Be in a Demoralized Condition.

SCOUTING NEAR KROONSTAD

ROBERTS' HORSEMEN HAVE ADVANCED TOWARD THE VAAL.

Free Staters Disorganized and Unwilling to Listen to President Steyn and His Officers.

NO WORD FROM MAFEEKING

RELIEF OF THE BELEAGUERED TOWN THOUGHT TO BE IMMINENT.

Gen. Hunter Probably Marching Up the Left Bank of the Vaal—Steyn's New Capital at Helbron.

LONDON, May 15, 3:45 a. m.—General Buller's turning of the Biggarsburg position was effected by a bold movement. The Boers had evacuated Helpmakaar, but were making a stand on Monday evening at Bleskoplaagte, seven miles from Dundee. The corps on the spot regarded this as a rear guard action intended to cover the retreat of the army. At the same time General Hildyard took Indaba, and it is reported that the Boers withdrew in disorder.

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